

February 16, 2017

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Attn: Noah Phillips and Zach West

Re: **Letter of Support for James C. Ho for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit**

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cruz:

On behalf of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), we strongly support the candidacy of James C. Ho to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Throughout his career, Mr. Ho has demonstrated a keen intellectual mind, superb judgment, and principles above reproach.

NAPABA is the national bar association representing the interests of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of over 50,000 attorneys nationally and 75 national, state, and local bar associations. Its members include solo practitioners, large law firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and nonprofit attorneys, judges, and lawyers serving at all levels of government. Through its national network of affiliates and committees, NAPABA provides a strong voice for increased diversity of federal and state judiciaries, advocates for equal opportunity in the workplace, seeks to eliminate anti-Asian crime and anti-immigrant sentiment, and promotes professional development of minorities in the legal profession.

Mr. Ho's background is widely known in legal circles. Recognized as one of the foremost appellate litigators in the nation, he served the great state of Texas as Solicitor General prior to co-chairing the Appellate and Constitutional Law practice group at the law firm of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher. Mr. Ho has presented over 45 oral arguments in federal and state courts nationwide, and his amicus briefs have been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Seventh Circuits, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and trial and appellate courts in Austin, Texas. He has testified on business and constitutional issues before Congress,

the Texas Legislature, and various governmental agencies. Mr. Ho also has extensive experience in all three branches of government: as former Chief Counsel for Senator Cornyn, as an appointee for President George W. Bush at the U.S. Department of Justice, and as a law clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court, and Judge Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

For his excellence, Mr. Ho has received numerous awards and recognitions. For example, Mr. Ho received the Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service from the Secretary of Defense and he is a two-time recipient of the Supreme Court Best Brief Award from the National Association of Attorneys General. He has also been named as a leading appellate lawyer by The Best Lawyers in America®, The Legal 500, Texas Super Lawyers, and D Magazine.

Mr. Ho has a demonstrated commitment to public service. In addition to his years in government service as noted above, in private practice, Mr. Ho has also served as vice chair of your Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee, as well as on the U.S. Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the Northern District of Texas.

We have worked closely with Mr. Ho for nearly a decade in his role as co-chair of the NAPABA Judiciary & Executive Nominations and Appointments Committee and we offer an insight beyond his substantial paper resume. While many in the membership do not agree with Mr. Ho's conservative views, he is widely respected throughout the NAPABA membership and he is consulted by both sides of the aisle. His expertise and his opinions matter, and NAPABA would not be where it is today without his long-standing guidance. We also recognize the historic importance if Mr. Ho was to be nominated and confirmed, as he would be the first Asian Pacific American to serve on any of the courts encompassed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Mr. Ho would also be only the ninth Asian Pacific American U.S. Appellate Judge in the history of the United States.

The Senators' recommendation of Mr. Ho to the President is important to NAPABA and the Asian Pacific American community. The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association proudly supports his candidacy.

Sincerely,



Wendy Wen Yun Chang
Co-Chair NABAPA Judiciary & Executive Nominations and Appointments Committee



Tina Matsuoka
Executive Director